



V CONFERENCIA DE MINISTROS DE DEFENSA DE LAS AMERICAS

SANTIAGO DE CHILE 18 AL 22 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2002

OPENING CEREMONY

In Santiago, Chile, on November 19, 2002, at 1:00 P.M., at Hyatt Hotel's Ballroom, the opening ceremony of the V Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas was held, presided over by the President of the Republic of Chile, the Honorable Ricardo Lagos Escobar.

The Chairperson of the V Conference, Mrs. Michelle Bachelet Jeria, Chilean Minister of National Defense, welcomed President Lagos and thanked him for attending. Likewise, she welcomed the distinguished delegations representing twenty-eight countries and the following special guests:

- Chairman of the Organization of American States' Committee on Hemispheric Security
- Chairman of the Conference of Commanders in Chief of the Armies of the Americas
- Chairman of the Conference of Commanders in Chief of the Air Forces of the Americas
- Chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board
- Director of the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies
- Regional Delegate of the Red Cross International Committee

The ceremony continued with the speech by the President of the Republic of Chile, after which this Ministerial meeting was opened.